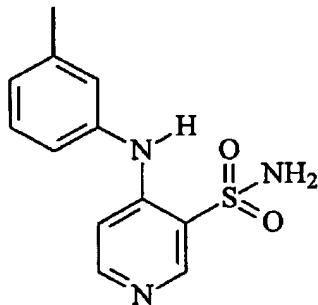


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A process for preparing torsemide or salts thereof comprising:

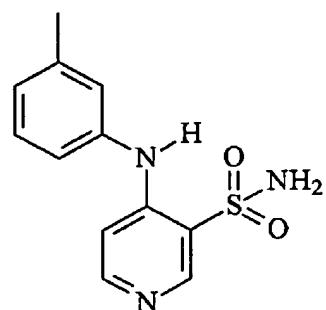
a) reacting a compound of formula II



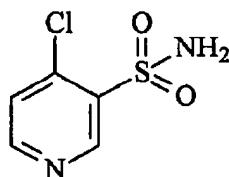
with isopropyl isocyanate in the presence of an alkali carbonate or bicarbonate and an organic solvent to form an alkali torsemide mixture,
b) recovering the alkali torsemide mixture as a salt, [[and]]
c) optionally recovering the torsemide by acidification of the alkali torsemide mixture[[.]] and
d) wherein said process is carried out in the absence of triethylamine.

Claim 2 (canceled)

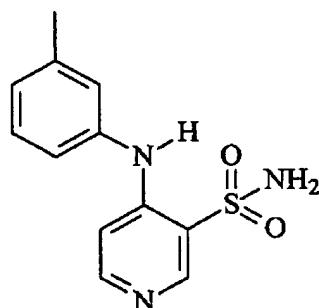
Claim 3 (currently amended): A process for preparing a compound of formula II



comprising reacting a compound of formula I



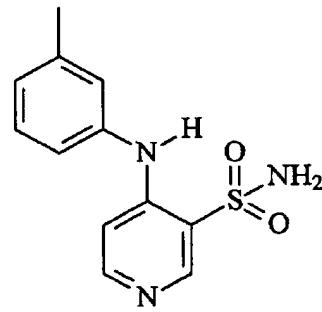
with m-toluidine in an organic solvent selected from the group consisting of a C1 to C6 alcohol to form a compound of formula II



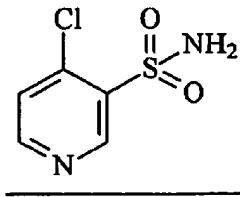
wherein said process is carried out in the absence of at least one of the following:

- i) a copper catalyst; and/or
- ii) triethylamine.

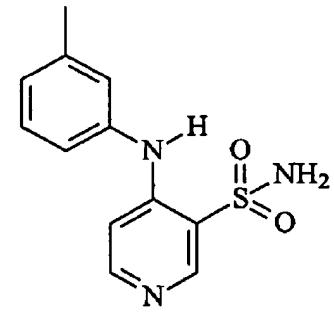
Claim 4 (currently amended): ~~The process of claim 3 wherein the C1 to C6 alcohol is n-butanol.~~ A process for preparing a compound of formula II



comprising reacting a compound of formula I



with m-toluidine in an organic solvent selected from the group consisting of n-butanol to form a compound of formula II



wherein said process is carried out in the absence of at least one of the following:

- i) a copper catalyst; and/or
- ii) triethylamine.

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): The process of claim 1 [[or 2]] wherein the alkali carbonate is sodium carbonate, potassium carbonate, or lithium carbonate.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The process of claim 1 [[or 2]] wherein the alkali bicarbonate is sodium bicarbonate, potassium bicarbonate, or lithium bicarbonate.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The process of claim 1 [[or 2]] wherein the organic solvent selected from the group consisting of acetone, ethyl acetate, acetonitrile, methyl isobutyl ketone and mixtures thereof.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The process of claim 1 [[or 2]] wherein the alkali torsemide mixture is converted to torsemide by dissolving in water followed by acidification.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The process of claim 1 [[or 2]] wherein the acid used for acidification is a water soluble acid.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The process of claim 1 [[or 2]] wherein the acid used for acidification is acetic acid.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The process of claim 1,3 or [[2]] 4 wherein the purity of the torsemide is at least about 99.5%.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The process of claim 1,3 or [[2]] 4 wherein the purity of torsemide is at least 98%.

Claim 14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (canceled)